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PRAVDA Editorial

PM031927 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 85 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "In the Name of Peace on Earth"]

[Text] The Soviet people and hundreds of millions of people of goodwill in all corners of the globe have embarked upon the new year, 1985, with thoughts of peace and with the determination to put an end to the specter of nuclear war.

The maintenance of peace is today a task whose significance is relevant to all mankind. The peoples are following with alarm the dangerous policy of the aggressive circles of imperialism, primarily the United States, which are gambling on the further acceleration of the arms race. This race unleashed by them on land, at sea, and in the air now threatens to extend itself into space also.

A natural question: Can this threat be averted? The answer to this depends greatly on the reelected U.S. Administration, on whether or not it will carry out its peace-loving promises, which were profuse prior to the elections.

As for the Soviet Union, it is not up to us: Now, as before, we advocate the halting of the arms race and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war. For precisely this reason, Comrade K.U. Chernenko declared, the Soviet Union proposed to President Reagan that "the USSR and the United States begin talks on the entire range of interrelated issues concerning the nonmilitarization of space and the reduction of strategic nuclear armaments and medium-range nuclear means. In all these directions the USSR is prepared to seek the most radical solutions that would make headway toward the complete prohibition and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons."

Historical experience teaches us that it is necessary to fight against war before it starts. This is precisely how the USSR and the other socialist countries are acting.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state are persistently following a Leninist peace-loving foreign policy course. Aware of its responsibility to mankind, the USSR has declared its unilateral renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons. The proposal on general and complete disarmament combined with general and complete monitoring [kontrol] belongs to our country.

The solution of the space weapons issue is now acquiring paramount significance because if no reliable barrier to the militarization of space is erected, then a monstrous new arms race spiral is inevitable, and the danger of thermonuclear war will increase enormously.

Space must be the arena of fruitful cooperation, not of military confrontation. This is how the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries pose the question. This is how it is posed by all who cherish the interests of peace. The voting at the recently ended 39th UN General Assembly session on a resolution calling for space to be excluded from the arms race sphere was an impressive demonstration of the desire on the part of the world's peace-loving forces to prevent the militarization of space. Some 150 states voted in favor of this document which reflects the essence of the Soviet proposal submitted for consideration by the United Nations; only the United States abstained.

The USSR's businesslike, specific proposals constitute a realistic program for delivering the European peoples and all mankind from the threat of nuclear war.

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SOVIET MBFR TALKS DELEGATION ARRIVES IN VIENNA

LD301308 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Vienna January 30 TASS -- A Soviet delegation arrived here today to take part in another round of talks on mutual reductions of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. The delegation is led by Ambassador Valerian Mikhaylov.

CHERNYSHEV: WEST MUST REVIEW ATTITUDE ON MBFR

LD301638 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1532 GMT 30 Jan 85

["Time To Go Over to a Constructive Dialogue in Vienna" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan (TASS) -- TASS observer on military affairs Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

Another round of the talks on Mutual Reduction of Armed Forces and Arms in Central Europe begins in Vienna on 31 January.

The socialist countries have proposed a fresh approach to the scheme of reductions. It consists of shifting the emphasis from endlessly trying to harmonize the initial numerical date, onto the main issue: The final result of the reductions and its verification. It is a matter of each side cutting its troops by the amount required to achieve equal numerical levels of the armed forces in Central Europe for both NATO and the Warsaw Pact and fixed by treaty at 900,000 men each, including 700,000 men in the ground forces, regardless of any disputes and disagreements in the assessment of the numbers of the armed forces of the two sides in the region.

The acceptance of this approach by the NATO countries would make it possible to overcome the numbers barrier and would facilitate the achievement of positive results in Vienna. However, by all accounts the NATO countries are not as yet ready to back up their declarations about being interested in progress with practical steps. Thus FRG Foreign Minister Genscher continues to talk about "seeking decisions on the set of issues concerning correlation of the numbers of armed forces," that is, the "numbers problem" yet again.

If the NATO counries really do intend to fulfill the agreed mandate of the talks then they must also review their attitude to the question of weapons, the reduction of which they continue to reject completely.

It is also time to stop avoiding finding solutions to other principal problems which have a direct bearing on reducing the level of military confrontation in Central Europe. Thus, for example, NATO countries continue to oppose the restriction of numbers of air force personnel by an upper-limit level, leaving open the possibility of exceeding the agreed levels for troop numbers after all the reductions have been implemented. They are unwilling to do anything about the question of limiting the scale of military exercises in the area subject to reductions, although exercises by NATO armed forces are increasingly reminiscent in their scope of preparation for a large scale assault.

The current approach of NATO countries to the problem of control is without prospects as regards the possibility of reaching an equitable agreement. As yet they have not changed their demands on the control which they know to be unacceptable to the other side and which are aimed not at checking the fulfillment of a future agreement but at legalizing the scrutiny of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces' activity.